

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 01351 180739Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 3567
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LENINGRAD 1351

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CSCE, UR
SUBJ: REFUSENIKS PROTEST TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE OF SOVIET
EMIGRATION POLICY AND TREATMENT OF REFUSENIKS

REF: (A) LENINGRAD 1339, (B) MOSCOW 14972, (C) 76 LENINGRAD 1934

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET JEWISH REFUSENIKS HAVE ADDRESSED SECOND LETTER TO PARTICIPANTS OF BELGRAD CSCE CONFERENCE DEMANDING SPECIFIC REFORMS IN SOVIET TREATMENT OF PETITIONS TO EMIGRATE AND IN TREATMENT OF REFUSENIKS. THEY FURTHER DEMAND RELEASE OF JEWISH PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND AN END TO THE SHCHARANSKIY AFFAIR WHICH THEY COMPARE TO THE DOCTORS' PLOT OF STALIN'S TIME. HUNGER STRIKE CALLED TO SUPPORT REFUSENIKS' DEMANDS IS ATTRACTING STRONG SUPPORT AMONG LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL SOURCE REPORTS THAT 25 LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS SIGNED THE ORIGINAL LETTER TO THE CSCE BELGRAD MEETING AND THAT 23 ARE TAKING PART IN THE HUNGER STRIKE ITSELF.

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PAGE 02 LENING 01351 180739Z

3. POST HAS OBTAINED EDITED COPY OF FOLLOW UP LETTER TO EARLIER LETTER FROM SOVIET REFUSENIKS TO PARTICIPANTS OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE (REFTEL B) WHICH ANNOUNCED HUNGER STRIKE AND OUTLINED REFUSENIKS' GENERAL VIEWS OF INFRINGEMENTS OF RIGHTS OF SOVIET JEWS AND OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF EMIGRATING FROM THE USSR. LATEST LETTER DOCUMENTS PLIGHT OF THOSE WHO WISH TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF QUOTE REPATRIATION END QUOTE TO ISRAEL,

ESPECIALLY THE PLIGHT OF REFUSENIKS, AND ALSO OUTLINES COMPREHENSIVE AND SPECIFIC SET OF DEMANDS FOR REFORM OF EMIGRATION CONTROL SYSTEM. THESE DEMANDS ARE DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE ITS USE AS TOOL FOR FRUSTRATING WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS.

4. THERE FOLLOWS A LIST OF SPECIFIC DEMANDS CONTAINED IN SECOND LETTER. (FULL TEXT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL);

--"REPATRIATION" BE GRANTED UPON REQUEST OF PETITIONER WITH NO REQUIREMENT TO PRESENT AN INVITATION FROM RELATIVES (VYVOZ);
--IN CASES OF REJECTION OF EMIGRATION PETITIONS ON GROUNDS OF STATE SECURITY, THE PETITIONER BE GIVEN RIGHT TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE SECURITY EXAMINER AND PRESENT HIS OBJECTIONS; ALSO THAT THE LENGTH OF THE WAITING PERIOD FOR THE DOWNGRADING OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF SECRECY AS WELL AS THE RULES--BASED ON LAW--GOERNING EXIT PERMISSION IN NON-SECURITY CASES BE PROMULGATED;
--ENQUIRIES TO PARENTS CONCERNING FINANCIAL CLAIMS ON PETITIONERS FOR EMIGRATION BE MADE BY THE EXIT AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES AND BE MADE EXPEDITIOUSLY; AND DISPUTES ARISING FROM SUCH CLAIMS BE EXAMINED IN COURT UPON REQUEST OF EITHER SIDE;
--COMPLAINTS AGAINST REJECTION OF EMIGRATION PETITIONS BE EXAMINED IN A JUDICIAL FORMAT;
--PETITIONER FOR "REPATRIATION" BE TAKEN INTO MILITARY SERVICE ONLY IN CONDITIONS NOT CONNECTED WITH ACCESS TO SECRETS; UPON CONCLUSION OF HIS SERVICE TERM HE BE GUARANTEED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 Lening 01351 180739Z

POSSIBILITY OF "REPATRIATION" WITH NO DELAY; AND THOSE SEEKING "REPATRIATION" WHO HAVE PRESENTED A PETITION TO ABANDON SOVIET CITIZENSHIP NOT BE INDUCTED INTO MILITARY SERVICE; AND
--ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BE FREED FROM PRISONS, CAMPS, AND EXILE, PERSECUTION OF JEWISH ACTIVISTS BE STOPPED; AND SO-CALLED SHCHARANSKIY AFFAIRS, WHICH IS OF A PIECE WITH THE DOCTORS' PLOT OF STALIN TIMES, BE STOPPED.

5. COMMENT. ALL THESE DEMANDS ARE COINED AS "REQUESTS" FOR SUPPORT TO PARTICIPANTS OF CONFERENCE. ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE THAT WHILE SOME OF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOT NEW, SOME OF THEM ARE QUITE BOLDLY INNOVATIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, PROMULGATION OF RULES AND WAITING PERIODS IN STATE SECRECY CASES WAS THE SUBJECT OF A LETTER FROM LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS TO THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS LAST YEAR (REFTEL C NOTAL). DEMANDS FOR ABOLITION OF THE REQUIREMENT OF A VYZOV AND TURNING MUCH OF THE SECURITY AND COMPLAINT REVIEW INTO PUBLIC, AND EVEN JUDICIAL, PROCESS, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE NEW AND RADICAL AND DEMONSTRATE THE RISKS SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY MAKERS RUN BOTH IN WHETTING APPETITE FOR EMIGRATION AND IN OPENING THE WAY TO INCREASED DEMANDS FOR AN END TO BUREAUCRATIC ARBITRARINESS

THAT CHARACTERIZES SOVIET VISA PROCESS. END COMMENT.BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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